

Dyess Global Warrior

March 3, 2006

Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Volume 2, Number 9

A professional team, delivering bombing, airlift support, training and combat support to combatant commanders... anytime, anywhere

# Base ORI in full swing



Major Daniel Gerdes, 7th Civil Engineer Squadron, calls in the status of a convoy and its members while Master Sgt. Richard Johnson, 7th CES, provides security Feb. 28. Members are simulated deployed to a forward-operating location during the operational readiness inspection. This inspection is to determine Dyess' ability to operate, survive, improve war-fighting skills, and successfully execute its mission.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Araceli Alarcon

## Team Dyess inspected by Air Combat Command on ability to survive, operate during war

By Airman 1st Class Carolyn Viss  
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Dyess is in the throes of an operational readiness inspection, after months of preparation. The Phase II ORI, conducted by the Air Combat Command Inspector General team, is a test of Dyess' ability to survive and operate in a deployed environment. The ACC IG team is comprised of approximately 100 inspectors, led by Col. Michael Rollison, ACC IG team chief. Roughly 100 observers from other bases have also come, particularly from bomber bases including Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Dyess has conducted four operational readiness exercises since September to ensure success in this week's inspection. Colonel James Hammes, 7th Bomb Wing IG, said he and Col. Garrett Harencak, 7th BW commander, along with other members of Dyess' leadership, have been working 24/7 with the ACC IG team to observe sortie generation, crews, employment of weapons systems, and many other aspects of wartime operations. "When we come here for the IG, our primary goal is to evaluate the combat readiness of Dyess (the 7th Bomb Wing) and see how well they're able to do the job," said Colonel Rollison. "My expect-

tations are for the 7th BW to do as they've been trained to do in combat." But the 7th BW has taken that goal one step further. "Our goal for Dyess is to score an 'outstanding' on this ORI," Colonel Hammes said. "We just know we're going to 'wow' the socks off the ACC IG team, from the first moment they step off the plane 'til the landing gear picks up and they depart again." He said all the base's previous exercises have been extremely helpful because the "crawl, walk, run" process prepared the base, especially new members, to be 100 percent up to speed on inspection procedures. "This ORI isn't just a demonstration of our ability to survive," Colonel Hammes said. "It demonstrates our ability to go to war. This is what we train for. We're not fine-tuning our skills; we're preparing to deploy and fight the global war on terrorism and execute the mission under mortar, missile and air attacks." The grading scale ACC will be using will place Dyess in one of five categories: unsatisfactory, marginal, satisfactory, excellent or outstanding. "We want the top grade," Colonel Hammes said. "We've worked too hard not to do our best and strut our stuff." "It's achievable" Colonel Ham-

See ORI, Page 5

# Historical marker honors Colonel Dyess

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Aaron Hochman-Zimmerman  
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

A historical marker was posted and a monument dedicated in nearby Albany, Texas, Feb. 24 in honor of Dyess' namesake, Lt. Col. Edwin Dyess. Members of Colonel Dyess' family, prominent figures of the Albany community, and 5th Army commander Lt. Gen. Robert Clark, among others, joined Col. Garrett Harencak, 7th Bomb Wing commander, at the Albany courthouse. "It was a wonderful ceremony," Colonel Harencak said. "That monument will be a

lasting tribute to Albany's heroes." Colonel Dyess' sister, Mrs. Elizabeth "Nell" Dyess Denman, spoke about and put a personality behind the biography of her brother. She told stories of stealing his toys and taunting him until he threw a baseball in her direction, which hit a window instead. A hailstorm two days later concealed the crime. Denman also recounted the story she heard of her brother's last day. "He was thoughtful to the end," she said and described the way Colonel Dyess stayed with his failing P-38 to avoid any populated areas when he crashed just after takeoff in Burbank, Calif., in 1943.

A few friends and family lingered after the ceremony, sharing memories of the Dyess family. Longtime Albany resident and World War II B-17 tail gunner R.P. Mitchell reminisced about playing ball with Colonel Dyess as a boy and pointed to where the Dyess family used to live. "I remember when he buzzed this courthouse," he said, recalling one of Colonel Dyess' training flights from Randolph Army Air Field. Mr. Bob Green spoke about why he felt the day was important. "(Children) are the recipients of the efforts of those who were here before them," Mr. Green said. "The only reason we are able to live in freedom is that men like these fought and even died for our freedom."

"They fought for our country, and I think they are special," said Briana Martinez, 11, of Albany's Nancy Smith Elementary. "I'm happy I'm still here. I have a brother fighting in the Marines. He's driving a big truck for supplies." After the speeches inside the courthouse, the monument's sculptor, Mr. Duke Sundt, helped perform the unveiling in the rain. "I'm an Army brat myself," Mr. Sundt said. "I have a strong love for the military and an appreciation for those who serve." Mr. Sundt said each of the six carvings on the monument took an entire week to complete. He was asked to create the monument based on his work at the campus of the New Mexico Military Institute, where Mr. Green is an alumnus. Mr. Don Koch, former 39th Airlift Squadron commander and current member of the Shackelford County Historical Commission, helped prepare documentation for the historical marker, which stands next to the bronze monuments. "That's kind of typical to Albany's



Mrs. Elizabeth "Nell" Dyess Denman, sister of Lt. Col. Edwin Dyess, speaks at a monument dedication Feb. 24. The monument ceremony was held to honor Dyess' namesake, Colonel Dyess.

approach to commemorating the history and sacrifice of people in the state and the nation," he said of the tribute to Colonel Dyess. The donation for the monument was inspired by "Okinawa Odyssey," the World War II memoir of Albany resident Mr. Green. W. A. "Tex" Moncrief, an oil and gas producer based in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as a hunting partner of the Green family, furnished the money for the monument after reading "Okinawa Odyssey." The monument also honors Rear Adm. Emory Grantham and Army Lt. Gen. Robert Williams, who were both Albany natives. During World War II, General Williams,

See Monument, Page 3



Mr. Duke Sundt (right), the sculptor of a monument honoring Colonel Dyess, points out details of the artwork to Mr. Bob Green, historian and author of "Okinawa Odyssey." Mr. Green spoke at the ceremony and Mr. Sundt unveiled the sculpture Feb. 24.

# Action Line

696-3355 or e-mail [action@dyess.af.mil](mailto:action@dyess.af.mil)

*The Action Line provides a direct line of communication between Col. Garrett Harenca, 7th Bomb Wing commander, and the people of Dyess. People should always use their chain of command or contact the agency involved first. However, if the problem still can not be resolved, call 696-3355 or e-mail [action@dyess.af.mil](mailto:action@dyess.af.mil). Leaving your name and phone number ensures a personal reply by phone. The Global Warrior staff reserves the right to edit all Action Lines before publication. Not all Action Lines will be published.*

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## COMMANDER’S CORNER

Team Dyess welcomes home the warriors of the 40th Airlift Squadron. It was another outstanding deployment for the mighty 317th Airlift Group and all other warriors of Team Dyess who supported and deployed with them. We are grateful they are all back safely and thrilled that their efforts in combat operations over the past months have resulted in many successes which have directly contributed to accomplishment of our one and only priority - to hunt down and destroy America’s enemies. Well done!

Their return means, however, the deployment of the warriors of the 39th Airlift Squadron and maintainers and support personnel of the 317 AG and all others who support them on their vital mission. I know all of Team Dyess joins me in wishing them all the best and happy hunting!



**Col. Garrett Harenca**  
7th Bomb Wing commander

# Chief’s advice: Grow where you are planted

**Commentary by Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Mason**  
*7th Communications Squadron*

“Grow where you are planted” was a phrase often used by my crusty old chief master sergeant, Ken Kucharzak. He was the 374th Communication Squadron chief of maintenance, and people would cringe when summoned to his office. I remember my first visit well. It went something like this ...

Chief Kucharzak called me to his office soon after I in-processed at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He asked about my family, my military service, and whether or not I was content in being a master sergeant. I made a statement about not being satisfied as being a work center supervisor and wanted to move up to the branch chief position. That was the first time I ever

heard him bellow, “Get out of my office, and grow where you are planted.”

Ten years have passed since then. His words guided me through every position I’ve held since that day. I am convinced Chief Kucharzak’s mentorship played a pivotal role in my making the rank of chief master sergeant. I committed myself to, “grow where I was planted.” To learn everything there was to learn about various duty positions and to make sure subordinates learned their responsibilities and were recognized for their performance.

Chief Kucharzak and I would talk almost daily about responsibility and how a leader’s first calling must be to his people. He would always say, “The mission will come if and only if people are taken care of.” The chief demanded the best from his Airmen, and challenged them to work their hardest in every area to include pro-

motion testing. I followed his lead in demanding the most from my troops, and even required subordinates to attend each and every promotion ceremony.

During these ceremonies, I would ask my Airmen to look in the face of each promotee and remember the smiles. Remember that face every time you put off studying throughout the year, or try to rationalize why you missed the cut-off.

To this day, I get e-mails from former troops who tell me they made rank during the last promotion cycle. The accomplishment was totally theirs, yet I smile thinking a small part of their success came from my actions. I challenge everyone to “grow where you are planted” and do your absolute best at all times, including promotion preparation.

This past August, I had the privilege of attending the newly-created Chief

Leadership Seminar in Montgomery, Ala. There, attendees were fortunate to learn from military leaders and corporate America lecturers on a multitude of issues. One individual stated a chief’s responsibility is to advise senior officers, mentor junior officers, train senior non-commissioned officers, inspire junior non-commissioned officers, and educate Airmen. My thoughts immediately went back to my old mentor, Chief Kucharzak, and his words, “grow where you are planted.”

In recent months, I have begun to realize more and more my responsibilities and what it means to be a chief master sergeant. I challenge you to demand the most from your troops and let your subordinates know where they stand on all fronts. My promise is to “grow where I am planted” and to take care of my Airmen, because Airmen take care of the mission.

# Leadership determines team success or failure

**Commentary by Master Sgt. Mario Corpening**  
*9th Bomb Squadron*

There are numerous factors to building a strong and efficient team.

Team building can be a long, arduous task, or the team can click in no time at all. It all depends on the team’s ability to set aside selfish needs and personal agendas to assist in achieving team goals. An important factor is to have a strong, personable leader who’s level-head-

ed. The leader must be approachable and willing to listen to new ideas.

There are times when leaders will brush off their subordinates’ ideas and refuse to change things simply because “this is how we’ve always done it.”

Everything can be improved upon in some way, shape or form. Subordinates cannot be afraid to express their creative on the assumption that it will be shot down. Everyone’s opinions should be heard and their suggestions

*“Get your hands dirty from time to time to show your people that you are a part of the team and not just a figure head.”*

Master Sgt. Mario Corpening  
9th Bomb Squadron

should be taken into consideration. We all know that every idea isn’t necessarily a good idea, but we also cannot discourage people from possibly providing valuable input.

As team leaders, you cannot just

sit back and talk the talk. After awhile, your people will take it as just that — talk. Don’t always give the order on what needs to get done and leave your subordinates to formulate their own plan. Get out from behind your desk and interact with your people. Get your hands dirty from time to time to show and prove to your people that you are a part of the team and not just a figure head who takes credit for everyone else’s hard work.

Does that mean that you accomplish the work for your subordinates? Of course not; but have some idea of what’s going on with your personnel, whether it’s on a professional level or a personal level. From my own personal experiences, the troops tend to react positively when I give them insight on how to accomplish certain tasks. We even joke around sometimes to lighten the mood in the work center.

Each individual needs to know that their role on the team is just as important as anyone else’s. The more individuals can see the benefit of his or her contribution in supporting the team, the more successful your team will be. It’s not always easy for people to initially mesh and adapt to the team concept. That should be expected, simply because we all come from different backgrounds and have different ideas and perspectives on how things should be accomplished.

Team members need to develop a mutual trust for each other and

believe that other team members have skills and capabilities to contribute to the team. Team members have to learn how to examine team and individual errors and weaknesses without making personal attacks, which enables the group to learn from its negative experiences.

There is very little “team” in teamwork without a lot of motivation. We live in a society that seems fascinated with individual accomplishment, and the team concept takes a backseat to the individual. Even in team settings like sports, we single out the All Stars and the most valuable player of each game. Lance Armstrong is a great cyclist. Michael Jordan is arguably the greatest basketball player of all time, but neither of these individuals would have reached the level of success they did without the support and assistance of their team members.

Do you think of your group as a team? They won’t think of themselves as a team if you don’t. Do you reward team performance or only individual achievements? You won’t have much success in team building if you don’t reward team performance. Let your group know they are a team, that you expect them to perform as a team, and that you will reward their success as a team.

In these times of “do more with less,” we get so focused on getting the mission accomplished first and foremost. We forget about the people doing the job. We do not congratulate our people enough when they perform well, but we’re quick to berate or punish them when they make a mistake. With all the personnel cuts being instituted, the team concept will be as important as ever in order to keep the Air Force thriving into the next millennium.

## TEAM DYESS

### FOD Fighter of the Week

#### Second Lieutenant Andrew Black




Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Oscar Lamas

**Second Lieutenant Andrew Black, 7th Operations Support Squadron, shakes out a FOD Boss, a mat used to collect foreign object debris on the runway. Lieutenant Black found two 1.5-inch bolts during a runway inspection. Lieutenant Black is the 7th OSS FOD prevention program manager.**

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The staff reserves the right to edit all content and submissions. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The deadline for submissions to the Global Warrior is close of business Thursday one week prior to the desired publication date.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs office at 466 5th St., Dyess Air Force Base, Texas 79607 or e-mailed to [globalwarrior@dyess.af.mil](mailto:globalwarrior@dyess.af.mil). For more information, call 325-696-4300.

# Air Force implements cell phone restriction

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine  
*Air Force Print News*

SAN ANTONIO – The Air Force is implementing a new cell phone restriction for drivers.

As of Feb. 27, drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands free device. This policy is part of the Department of Defense’s Joint Traffic Guidance.

This restriction also applies to all government owned vehicles at all times. No GOV drivers are permitted to talk on a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device on or off base.

“This is really a cooperative effort for everyone from the base populace to the base leaders,” said

ernment-owned vehicles shall not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device.

“The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. Use of those devices impairs driving and masks or prevents recognition of emergency signals, alarms, announcements, the approach of vehicles, and human speech. DoD component safety guidance should note the potential for driver distractions such as eating and drinking, operating radios, CD players, global positioning equipment, etc. Whenever possible this should only be done when the vehicle is

*“This is really a cooperative effort for everyone from the base populace to the base leaders.”*

Master Sgt. Gloria Ornelas  
superintendent of law enforcement, Air Force Security Forces Center

Master Sgt. Gloria Ornelas, the superintendent of law enforcement at the Air Force Security Forces Center. “I think it is long overdue. The DoD recognized that, and we are now in line with what some states and municipalities are doing to create a safer environment for drivers.”

Joint Traffic Regulation, Air Force Instruction 31-218 (I), Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, will restrict the use of cell phones while driving. Only cell phones with hands-free devices will be allowed for use by drivers. This guidance also allows the Air Force to use portable breath screening devices as long as they conform to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards.

The Defense Department’s joint traffic document states:

“Vehicle operators on a DoD Installation and operators of gov-

safely parked.”

Using a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device will be considered a “primary offense.” This means violators will be able to be stopped solely for this offense.

Drivers who violate this cell phone driving restriction will be given three assessment points against their driving records or an appropriate fine. Drivers should be aware that if two or more violations are committed, even on a single occasion, a ticket may be given to the driver for each violation.

“It was recognized at the DoD level that we needed some changes,” Sergeant Ornelas said. “The winner here is the base populace. They will have more mobility while driving, a greater range of view – in short, a safer driving environment for all.”



Photo illustration by Senior Airman Brian Ferguson

As of Feb. 27, drivers are not allowed to talk on their cell phones while driving on Air Force installations without a hands-free device. This violation will now be considered a "primary offense," which means violators will be stopped solely for this offense. This policy is part of the Department of Defense's Joint Traffic Guidance. Drivers who violate this restriction will be given three assessment points against their driving records or an appropriate fine.

## Monument

Continued from Page 1

a B-17 pilot and 1st Division commander, personally led a famous strategic aerial raid against a ball bearing factory in Schweinfurt, Germany, in 1943.

The monument will stand on the grounds of the Albany courthouse as a tribute to the sacrifices of those three veterans who served the United States in World War II.

# ALWAYS RESPECT fellow riders

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# 56 club unites ‘middle’ tier NCOs

By Tech. Sgt. Gene Lappe  
7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

If you ask almost any enlisted person about the chief’s council or the Top Three, chances are they will know what you are talking about and have some idea of what the group is for.

But how many people have heard of the 56 Club?

“The 56 Club is an organization made up of staff and technical sergeants and individuals with a line number for staff sergeant,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Ellis, 56 Club

vice president. “The club performs a variety of volunteer activities that benefit the base and the local community.

“The purpose for the 56 Club is to unite the members of the middle leadership tier,” he said. “This fosters teamwork and professional development by sharing the enlisted heritage and continuing the profession of arms.”

Some of the activities the club is involved in include providing briefings at the First Term Airmen’s Center and the NCO Professional Enhancement course. The group is also volunteering to man the air

castles at the welcome home party this month.

Chief Master Sergeant Paul Wheeler, 7th Bomb Wing command chief, said, “The 56 club is a very important organization that brings together the first line supervisors. These individuals serve as a link between the Airmen and the senior noncommissioned officers and set the example for the young troops.”

Chief Wheeler said he hopes to see the organization grow since its membership is made up of individuals from one of the largest sections of the base populace. He

added that the organization is a great opportunity for NCOs to get to know one another and to begin “networking.”

“The organization is a voice for all enlisted members and is a heartbeat for the mid-level supervisors,” said Staff Sgt. Melida Sierra, 56 Club president. “We need your support and participation to make this club a success and make it a vital part of Dyess Air Force Base.”

The 56 Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Bomb Shelter. This date is subject to change to accommodate holidays and special events.

## ORI

Continued from Page 1

mes said, “to exceed the standards and water the inspectors eyes.”

Base leadership has prepared a post-ORI party that is scheduled to begin when the ACC team departs, Colonel Hammes said.

The purpose is to celebrate the work that’s gone into scoring well on the ORI, and will take place whether Dyess gets satisfactory or outstanding ratings.

“I just want to say thanks to all the folks who have prepared for this (ORI),” Colonel Hammes said.

“There has been a lot of effort from everyone on base, and we fully expect to get an outstanding,” he said.

## SNCOA

Dyess congratulates the following senior non-commissioned officers who graduated from the SNCO Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Feb. 22:

SMSgt David Damits  
317th AMXS

SMSgt Kenneth Fowler  
317th MUNS

MSgt Phillip Greer  
7th AMXS

MSgt James Martin  
7th CMS



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Walkenhorst

## Club member wins cash

Senior Airman Joel Calahan, 7th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technical data journeyman, is awarded a check for \$1,000 at wing stand-up Feb. 23. Airman Calahan was randomly selected from a group of new members of the Air Force Enlisted Club. The purpose of the drawings is to promote Club membership.

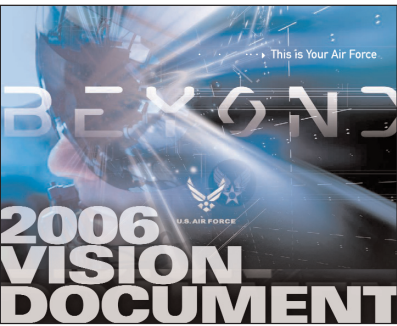
# Air Force vision embraces warfighters, heritage

By Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Heritage, future innovations and focus on the joint warfighter are three key points in the newly released Air Force Vision document, “Lasting Heritage...Limitless Horizons: A Warfighter’s Vision.”

This vision document, released to Airmen worldwide Tuesday, replaces the older “Vision 2020” version, which was released in 1997, and focused on preparation for the then-upcoming turn of the century.

“Many of the same themes appear in both documents, such as innovation and Airmen as warfighters” said Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne. “(Yet) the overall theme (of the recent document) stresses that



Airmen will continue to live up to their rich heritage, and push the Air Force to an even better horizon.”

“Heritage to horizon” is a strong message in the document, exemplified by timelines, quotes from past senior leaders and brief reviews on past Air Force missions.

“From the days of Chenault and aviation, from Schriever, from LeMay, from Stuart

Symington who was the first Secretary of the Air Force, it has always been about innovation,” Secretary Wynne said. “It has always been about pursuit of excellence. It’s always been about using and pushing the boundaries of technology into a future that was relatively unknown.”

While the document is heavy in Air Force history, its outline for the Air Force’s future is made clear with references to new technology, total force concepts, and fighting the global war on terrorism.

“To realize the vision, we have three priorities: maintain a razor-sharp focus on fighting this global war on terrorism, continue developing our Airmen, and recapitalize and modernize our inventory,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff.

“Meeting these challenges will require bold new initiatives. Our Airmen understand this intuitively. They build on a distinguished and lasting heritage. They will push the Air Force beyond the horizon.”

“We updated the vision to show how the Air Force is and will remain engaged in the Global War on Terror, (and how it) continues to embrace dramatic business practices and strives to achieve our bold future,” Secretary Wynne said. “The chief of staff and I are committed to developing the best Airmen and providing them with the best equipment and weapons to do their job.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray wrote in the document that “the enemy is erratic and ruthless, but no

match for the skillful and dedicated Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen serving today.

“Our unity and integration is better than ever, and we will improve our interoperability even more in the future. Together, we will fight hard and win decisively,” he wrote.

Secretary Wynne said he believes the new vision document is an important information tool for Airmen because it provides a clear explanation of the Air Force’s mission, history and plans for the future.

“I would like Airmen to take away from this vision document that there is limitless horizons,” he said. “Airmen are allowed to innovate ... and as they’ve always been, be free-thinking, risk-taking warfighters.”

# Defense Department working to prevent sexual assault

By Samantha Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Department leaders are committed to preventing sexual assault, said the commander of the Department of Defense’s Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

“To achieve this goal, in 2005, we have vigorously implemented a comprehensive sexual assault prevention and response program,” said Brig. Gen. K. C. McClain. “The keystone of the program is education and training.”

The education and training portion of the program is being applied to everyone in DoD, she said, adding that all of the services completed baseline training of their members during 2005. The education effort, she said, is ongoing.

“It’s also incorporated in all of our professional military education curriculums,” General McClain said, as well as in pre-deployment and pre-command training. “So we’re trying to hit every opportunity available to help people understand what constitutes sexual assault.”

The department’s sexual assault prevention and reporting policy also aims to enhance care and support available to sexual assault victims, as well as to increase accountability, the general said. The investigative process initiates accountability,

she explained.

“If we have a member who has been assaulted, we certainly want to investigate that,” General McClain said. “We want to hold the perpetrator accountable.”

Initially, under the sexual assault prevention and response program, if a victim told anyone other than a chaplain about the assault, the investigative process began, she said. In June, two reporting options were introduced: unrestricted and restricted.

Unrestricted reporting, as the name implies, does not limit who a servicemember tells, General McClain said. The action will initiate not only an investigation, but also the care and counseling offered through the program.

But because victims often report a sense of powerlessness after an assault, the thought of an immediate investigation can be overwhelming, she said. This can lead to the victim telling no one and receiving no care or counseling.

Restricted reporting, on the other hand, allows a victim to seek counsel from health-care personnel, victim advocates, sexual assault response coordinators or chaplains, she said.

“What this does is allow the member to come forward, to get accurate information as to what the options are and to get back some of that power that some feel they have lost,” General McClain

said.

Though the two reporting options have been available only for a short time, indications are the program is working as designed, she said.

“We do have some people electing restricted reporting, and some of those people then later change their mind and become unrestricted,” she said. “(That) is exactly what we had hoped for.”

General McClain recommends that sexual assault response coordinators be the first contact. These individuals will assign a victim advocate to collect information, explain options and help execute the chosen course of action. The information collected will be revealed only to those who need to know.

“Their information needs to be held in confidence as much as possible,” she said.

When sexual assault victims use the unrestricted reporting process, this becomes more difficult as investigators need to talk to key people and gather information, she said.

“They should still expect that only those people who have a need to know are informed as to what happened in this incident,” General McClain said.

All sexual assault victims, regardless of which reporting procedure they choose, can expect to be offered a victim advocate and to be treated with dignity and respect, the general said.

You Are Not Alone  
Become a Survivor

You have options.  
Suffering in silence  
doesn't have to be  
one of them.

SARC  
Dyess AFB Sexual Assault Response Coordinator  
24-Hour Response Line  
325-518-1802



Photo by Airman 1st Class Chris Walkenhorst

TEAM DYESS  
Warrior of the Week  
Airman 1st Class Candace Gehrke

**Unit:** 7th Bomb Wing  
**Job title:** Client support administrator  
**Job description:** To provide technical support for Dyess’ chapel; maintain, update and regulate all records for the chapel; and monitor the deployment training program and all awards, decorations and packages for the chapel staff.  
**Time in the Air Force:** Two years  
**Time at Dyess:** Two years  
**Marital status:** Husband, Ruben  
**Hometown:** Lake City, Fla.  
**Most rewarding job aspect:** The sense of accomplishment I feel doing my job to help put bombs on target  
**Career goals:** To finish school, get my master’s degree in communications, and attend Officer Training School  
**What you like most about Dyess:** The people I work with. I can’t go wrong working for the Air Combat Command medium-base chapel of the year for the second year in a row.  
**What you like most about the Air Force:** They are pro-family and pro-school; being a military brat myself, I appreciate the opportunities the Air Force affords us.  
**Best Air Force memory:** Going to the snake pit at basic training and smiling at my superintendent. My arms are still sore, and my left ear is still ringing.  
*(Editor’s note: The Dyess Warrior of the Week is selected by unit commanders, first sergeants or supervisors.)*

# 40 Dyess captains selected for major

Team Dyess congratulates the following captains selected for promotion to major. A party is scheduled to take place March 10 at 5 p.m. at the Heritage club.

Tobin Anderson	7th OG	Ryan Consie	39th AS	Daniel Morrisey	3rd ASOS
Michael Arnold	9th BS	David Cote	7th OSS	Josh Nassef	28th BS
David Arriola	9th BS	Jeffrey Elliott	337th TES	Guy Navarro Jr	317th AG
Francis Benedict	28th BS	Reese Evers	39th AS	Stuart Newberry	9th BS
Corinne Bonner	40th AS	Robert Foster	39th AS	Russell Parramore	39th AS
Anthony Brown	7th OSS	Matthew Genelin	28th BS	Orrin Pierce	28th BS
Matthew Brown	9th BS	Stephen Gerken	28th BS	John Proietti	9th BS
Ryan Carignan	28th BS	Ivan Herwick	7th CS	James Schebel	39th AS
Jaska Cason	317th OSS	Dennis Howell	7th OS	Larry Schutz	39th AS
Matthew Clapp	7th OSS	Helen Howell	40th AS	Tracey Silfies	317th MXS
		Bryan Lee	28th BS	Sanjit Singh	7th BW
		Everett Lilya	337th TRS	Jose Sumangil	28th BS
		Steven Mathis	9th BS	Christopher Wachter	7th OSS
		David May	7th BW	James Went	40th AS
		Anthony Mincer	9th BS	Jason Yeatts	9th BS



Photo by Airman 1st Class Courtney Garrard

# Team Dyess hard at work



Photo by Senior Airman Aaron Walker



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alan Garrison



Photo by Senior Airman James Schenck

**Top:** Tech. Sgt. Steven Cooper, 28th Bomb Squadron, inspects a B-1 parachute.

**Top right:** Dyess maintainers test a B-1 engine.

**Above:** Airman 1st Class Stephanie Smoot, 7th Civil Engineering Squadron, pulls crash truck 15 away after spreading fire fighting foam over a simulated aircraft fire here Tuesday.

**Right:** Lydia Stanton, 7th Services Squadron, pours batter on the grill during midnight mess at the Longhorn Dining Facility. Ms. Stanton, originally from the Philippines, has been at Dyess for six years.

## News Briefs

### Space-available travel

Current space-available C-130 flight schedule:

- Today, takes off at 10 a.m. to Hill Air Force Base, Utah; no return flight scheduled.
- Tuesday, takes off at 9 a.m. to Lemoore Naval Air Station, Calif., continuing to Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, continuing to Miramar NAS, Calif.; returns March 19.
- March 10, takes off at 8 a.m. to Scott AFB Ill., continuing to Brownsville South Padre Island international airport, Texas; returns March 13.
- March 13, takes off at 9 a.m. to Lawson Army Airfield, Ga.; returns March 16.
- March 16, takes off at 9 a.m. to Kelly AFB, Texas; returns March 16.

All flights are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Show time for all flights is two hours prior to scheduled take-off time. All travelers must show their military identification cards plus one additional form of ID. Active duty travelers must possess valid leave orders. The passenger terminal is at building 4112, Avenue A3.

For all flights scheduled during non-duty hours, travelers must coordinate with the pax terminal by calling 696-4505 or 696-8732.

### 9th BS change of command

The 9th Bomb Squadron is scheduled to have its change of command ceremony Thursday at 1 p.m. in the 3-Bay Hangar.

For more information, call Capt. Matthew Grimes at 696-7453.

### Emergency notification

Individuals need to ensure their emergency notification information is accurate and up-to-date. This includes family member information and contact information.

The Virtual Record of Emergency Data can be accessed and updated online at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/>. For more information, people may call their commander's support staff.

### Curtis Williams estate notice

Anyone with a claim for or against the estate of Staff Sgt. Curtis Williams may call 1st Lt. Michael Mihalik at 696-5616.

### Cody Sparks estate notice

Anyone with a claim for or against the estate of Airman Cody Sparks may call 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Diboll at 518-9649.

### Tuition assistance

All Air Force personnel receiving tuition assistance must send a copy of the approved tuition assistance form to their schools.

Students who fail to do so may be disenrolled from their courses.

Schools cannot seek payment from the Air Force without a copy of the approved tuition assistance form.

The Dyess Education Center is not authorized to send a copy of the approved



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alan Garrison

### Fire in the “pit”

Airman 1st Class Brent Mitchell, 7th Civil Engineer Squadron, stands back with his propane torch that he just finished lighting the “pit” with. The simulator, which represents the fuselage of an aircraft, allows firefighters to train safely in realistic environments. Airman Mitchell wears a proximity suit for this exercise because aircraft fires reach very high temperatures. A sprinkler system sprays fuel which keeps the fire burning but can be shut off at any point in the interest of safety.

form to schools; it must be done by the student as part of the enrollment process.

For more information, call William Phillips at 696-5545 or e-mail [william.phillips@dyess.af.mil](mailto:william.phillips@dyess.af.mil).

### Refuse and recycling

Dyess' refuse and recycling contractor, OSIRUS, will change the collection schedule for the Military Family Housing effective Monday.

Beginning on this date, recycling from the MFH area will be collected every Monday, and refuse collection will be every Tuesday. OSIRUS will no longer provide pickup service Thursday and Friday. For more information, call Walter Smith at 696-6452.

### Little league baseball coaches

Coaches are needed for the Dyess little league program. There are openings in four leagues: PeeWees, 3-4 years old; T-ball, 5-6 years old; Minors, 7-8 years old; Majors, 9-12 years old.

For more information, call Andrea Short at 696-4797 or Billy Spencer at 696-5070.

### AEF welcome home party

An aerospace expeditionary force welcome home party is scheduled to be held March 17 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Equipment Maintenance Squadron

hanger.

Airman who have recently returned from a deployment are encouraged to wear their deployed uniform to be recognized. Family and friends are welcome and activities are scheduled to be provided for children.

Additional parking will be available at the fitness center and the lemon lot. Buses are scheduled to run from the lots to the EMS hangar.

For more information, call Pat Trail at 696-2141.

### Thrift Shop

The Dyess Thrift Shop is open to all Dyess personnel and their families.

Store hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Consignments are accepted on open days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Thrift Shop is located at 382 4th Avenue.

For more information, call 696-8203.

### DRMO

For all DRMO withdrawals, call the Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service office at 696-4464 or 696-3890.

The LRS customer service office is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Post-ORI party

A post-operational readiness inspection party is scheduled to follow the ORI out brief, Monday at noon in Hangar 4225 (the “Wash Rack”).

For more information, call Master Sgt. Gregory Labrie at 696-1727.

### Dyess Top Three meeting

A Dyess Top Three meeting is scheduled to take place March 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Heritage Club.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Jean Fontenot at 696-3743.

### MPOY golf tournament

The second annual Military Person of the Year golf tournament is scheduled to take place March 17 beginning at noon at the Mesquite Grove Golf Course.

It will be a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. There is a \$30 entry fee, which includes greens fees and cart rental.

Prizes will be awarded for longest drive and closest shot to the pin.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Mark Matta 696-3340.

### MFH power outage

A power outage is scheduled from Monday through 10, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in military family housing due to upgrades.

Only 1995 and 1996 housing will be affected.

For more information, call Robyne Adams at 696-2150.

### Wing run

A wing run is scheduled for March 10 at the traffic circle.

For more information, call your first sergeant.

## Scholarships

### NMFA scholarship

The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for the Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships.

Scholarships are normally \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, books and room and board.

Applications may be submitted online until midnight April 15.

For additional eligibility criteria or more information, visit [www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006](http://www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006).

### DeCA scholarship

The Defense Commissary Agency is offering scholarships of \$1,500 to students in 2006.

Applications are being accepted through Wednesday. For eligibility requirements or more information applicants may visit the website <http://militaryscholar.org>.

### Chief's Group scholarship

The Chief's Group is accepting applications for scholarships.

Applications may be obtained from high school counselors, the family support center, or any active-duty chief. Applications must be postmarked by April 15 and mailed to Dyess Chief's Group, Scholarship Chairman, P.O. Box 9785, Dyess AFB, TX 79607-0785.

For information regarding eligibility criteria, call Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Bush at 696-2857.

### DOSC scholarship

The Dyess Officers' Spouses' Club is accepting scholarship applications through March 10.

Applications may be picked up at Dyess Lanes, the Heritage Club, the Hangar Center, the base family support center, library, youth center, thrift shop, education center, and any Abilene area high school or college.

Previous Dyess OSC scholarship winners are ineligible to re-apply.

For additional eligibility criteria or more information, call Jody Hammes at 793-1513.

## Dyess Chapel



Nursery and children's church are available at all services. For information on Jewish services, call Maj. Matt Paskin at 696-1530. For information about other services, call the chapel at 696-4224.

#### Catholic worship schedule:

Saturday:	Reconciliation — 4 p.m. Mass — 5 p.m.
Sunday:	Mass — 9 a.m. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine — 11 a.m. Mass — 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday — Friday:	

#### Protestant worship schedule:

Sunday:	Sunday school — 9:45 a.m. Traditional worship service — 11 a.m. Gospel service — 12:30 p.m.
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#### Jewish services:

A Jewish service is scheduled for March 17 at 7 p.m. at Temple Mizpah, 849 Chestnut St.

## The BIG Screen

Today, Saturday at 7 p.m.  
**Tristan & Isolde**

*James Franco, Sophia Myles*

In the medieval legend of Tristan and Isolde, young lovers become doomed against the forces of royal politics. English knight Tristan wins the hand of the daughter of the Irish King, but the love threatens the truce between their two countries. Rated PG-13 (battle sequences, sexuality) 125 min.

Saturday at 2 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.  
**Glory Road**

*Josh Lucas, Derek Luke*

The inspiring true story of the underdog Texas Western basketball team, with history's first all African-American starting lineup of players, who took the country by storm, surprisingly winning the 1966 NCAA tournament title. Josh Lucas stars as Hall of Famer Don Haskins, the passionately dedicated college basketball coach who changed the history of basketball with his team's victory. Rated PG (racial issues with violence & epithets, language) 106 min.

# Loadmasters heart of C-130 operations

Story and photos by  
**Maj. Ann P. Knabe**  
*379th Air Expeditionary Wing  
Public Affairs*

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Technical Sergeant Kristy Decker knows no flight in this region is predictable.

With nearly two decades of flying under her belt, the Reserve loadmaster is serving her first tour of duty with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron in Southwest Asia. To date, she has flown into Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa more than 20 times.

The other half of this loadmaster team is Master Sgt. Thomas Freeman. Both he and Sergeant Decker are from the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Together, they play a critical role in the C-130 Hercules mission. Sergeants Freeman and Decker accomplish preflight checks of aircraft, making sure all equipment is working. Then they supervise the loading of the aircraft, including cargo and passengers. They calculate the weight and balance of the cargo so the aircraft can safely fly.

“Loadmasters provide the pilot with precise weight and balance calculations to determine the plane’s center of gravity,” said Maj. Brian Tallent, 746th assistant director of operations.

“This is key to ensuring the



Technical Sergeant Kristy Decker locks pallets onto the C-130 Hercules floor. She is a loadmaster with the 746th Expeditionary Air Squadron and is deployed from the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

aircraft flies,” he said.

On a recent mission to Baghdad, the loadmasters had to juggle multiple responsibilities throughout the evening. Their first stop was the airport in Bahrain.

One passenger departed the

aircraft in Bahrain. As the troop walked off the plane, Sergeants Decker and Freeman supervised the loading of three pallets, weighing more than 4,000 pounds each, onto the C-130.

Meanwhile, more passengers boarded. Their luggage followed on pallets. The aircraft took off for Iraq, carrying communications equipment, a 2,000-pound air compressor, and 1,500 pounds of compressed air and chemicals.

Nighttime descends into Iraq kept the loadmasters busy. They peered through the windows, scouring the sky through night-vision goggles, looking for signs of enemy fire.

Dim green lights illuminated the interior of the plane with an iridescent glow. Normal white lights block out the night vision goggles, while the soft green ones allow aircrew unimpeded vision.

Major Eric Hall, the aircraft commander, and co-pilot Maj. Jim Travis maneuvered the aircraft using a tactical approach to evade possible enemy fire. Approaches in Iraq are complex because of the airspace surrounding the airports, other traffic and enemy threats.

“The (airspace) is saturated,” Major Hall said. “It’s within close vicinity of other airfields, and there’s almost always something military-related going on down on the ground that requires combat air support. This, in turn,

affects traffic in and out of Iraq.”

On the ground, the passengers departed the plane, walking single file away from the aircraft. Meanwhile, the loadmasters directed forklift drivers as they lifted the three pallets into darkness.

Colonel Dennis Ployer, 447th Air Expeditionary Group Commander, greeted the aircrew. The conversation turned serious as the colonel told the crew they would be carrying human remains out of Baghdad that night.

The crew had flown similar missions in the past.

“But every time it’s painful,” Sergeant Decker said.

The aircrew and other passengers quietly filed in the back of the C-130, lining both sides of the aircraft interior. The officer of the day called the servicemembers to attention, the group saluted, and six Airmen silently carried the flag-draped coffin up the ramp of the C-130.

They carefully set the casket down. An American flag tightly covered the coffin, folded precisely at the corners and held in place by parachute cord.

More than 30 Airmen, Soldiers and Sailors followed the casket onto the aircraft. Few, if any, knew the fallen American. Yet, they all volunteered to pay final honors by escorting the remains to the aircraft.

After the proper formalities were followed to honor the deceased, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jimmy Browning asked all present to remember the American, who fell as a result of an improvised explosive device.

A few minutes later, 46 Soldiers boarded the plane, filing in alongside the tightly secured casket. Two pallets followed, holding bags wrapped in plastic and straps, stacked more than five feet high.

The entire time, the loadmasters supervised the placement of the cargo, securing it tightly to the floor of the aircraft.

Stacked side by side on the cargo seats, Soldiers lined their helmets and bags inches from the metal casket. As the engines vibrated, the Soldiers slept, read or simply stared ahead at the dimly lit casket. On takeoff, the C-130 was full to capacity.

When the plane once again touched down, Sergeants Decker and Freeman asked the Soldiers and Airmen closest to the casket to stand and render a final salute as the casket was carried off.

There would be one more stop before the end of the mission. It was almost dawn when the crew landed the C-130 at their home base, but the loadmasters’ job wasn’t complete.

After everything and everyone was gone from the aircraft, Sergeants Decker and Freeman cleaned the interior of the plane and organized the cargo seats, leaving the C-130 ready for its next flight.



Left: Master Sergeant Thomas Freeman peers out the window with night-vision goggles during a flight into Iraq. He is a loadmaster with the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and is deployed from the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

## Hearing loss an ‘occupational disease’

By Senior Airman Amber Campos  
*7th Medical Group Public Health*

No one’s job should cause them to lose their hearing; yet, hundreds of Airmen permanently lose some of their hearing each year, and some hearing loss is severe enough to require them to use hearing aids for the rest of their lives.

“Work-related hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases in the United States,” according to Dr. Linda Rosenstock, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

According to NIOSH, 30 million Americans are exposed to hazardous noise in their work environments.

That has resulted in a permanent hearing loss for about 33 percent of exposed workers.

There’s an easy way to better understand hazardous noise.

Normal conversation takes place at or around 60 decibels. A wood-working shop noise level is about 100 decibels. A short, intense sound such as a gunshot can be 140 decibels or higher and cause immediate hearing loss.

Prolonged exposure above 85 decibels

can cause hearing loss and is referred to as “hazardous noise.”

Usually, hearing loss occurs gradually after prolonged exposure to loud noise.

It may occur so gradually that some may not even realize they are losing their hearing.

By then, irreversible damage is done to the inner ear and may make sounds muffled and distorted.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to

are exposed to hazardous noise on the job.

Engineering or administrative controls cannot completely eliminate someone’s exposure to hazardous noise, but Airmen may wear hearing protection devices, such as ear plugs or ear muffs, to reduce the risks.

It is very important to use the proper type of hearing protection that has been approved by bio-environmental engineering. Hearing protection will not work if it is not used or if it is used inconsistently and improperly.

Airmen should keep ear plugs clean by washing them often in warm, soapy water and allowing them to air dry completely before returning them to their storage case.

When ear plugs become hard or cracked or no longer muffle noise, it’s time for them to be replaced.

It’s important to remember that hearing loss from exposure to loud sounds is permanent and irreversible, but it is preventable if Airmen wear hearing protection.

Airmen should protect themselves and their coworkers by enforcing hearing protection.

For more information concerning noise or occupational health, Airmen may call

***“Work-related hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases in the United States.”***

Dr. Linda Rosenstock  
Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

develop and implement a hearing conservation program.

In the Air Force, bio-environmental engineering determines whether or not noise levels exceed an eight-hour average of 85 decibels at work sites where noise-producing equipment or procedures are used.

That information determines the requirement for hearing tests.

Dyess has approximately 2,000 Airmen and civilian workers who are required to undergo annual hearing tests because they

### Tips to avoid hearing loss:

- Wear hearing protection when involved in any environment that contains noise levels above 85 decibels.
- Use protection that has been approved by Bio-environmental Engineering.
- Keep ear plugs clean and dry.
- Dispose of any ear protection that becomes hard or cracked, as it will no longer muffle noise properly.

